

## **WORKING GROUP 1 - FORUM ON NDT QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION**

A meeting of the above group was convened on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at 09h00 in Berlin following the 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on NDT

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**WG1\_2006\_M1**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

- a. The meeting was opened at 09h00, and those present were welcomed by Dr Purshke, Executive Director of DGZfP, which had kindly provided the facilities.
- b. John Thompson explained that he had taken over the chair from Dr. Farley as chairman of the working group and invited those present to introduce themselves.

#### **2. Membership**

- a. Attendance (a signed attendance list is attached)

Batov, G, Russia	Kononov, N, Russia
Birykova, N, Russia	Markučič, Damir , Croatia
Conti, João , Brasil	Mullin, Alexander, Russia
Eriksson, Claes, Sweden	Murphy, R, ISO, Canada
Farley, Mike, EFNDT President	Purschke, Matthias , Germany, DGZfP
Fytos, Minas , HSNT, Greece	Samardić, T, Serbia
Fytos, Minas, Greece	Sofronić, G, Serbia
Gabriska, Pavel , Slovakia	Thompson, John, UK, WG1 Chairman
Goran Sofronic, Serbia	Trampus, Peter, HANDT, Hungary
Hennaut, G, Belgium	Troitska, Nataliaia, Ukraine
Kaps, Ulrich , Germany, DGZfP	Volkova, N, Russia
	Zeelenberg, Erik , Netherlands, KINT

- b. Apologies for absence had been received from:

Tkachenko, Andrei, Moldavia  
Taguchi, Haruo, JSNDI (Japan)  
Aufrecht, Gerhard, Austria  
Dalberg, Peer, Norway  
Michel Poudrai, France, Cofrend  
Henning, Dietmar, Germany  
Markucic, Damir, Croatia

- c. It was noted that the certification bodies of 12 countries were represented, out of 32 named members of the group.

After note: NDT Societies in membership of the EFNDT should nominate representatives to attend the forum, and only nominated representatives should attend – see [member list](#) distributed with these minutes. Nominations are awaited from: the Belorussian Association on NDT (BANDT), the Indian Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ISNT), the Italian Society for NDT (AIPnD), the Latvian Society for NDT, the Moldavian Society on NDT (AN NDT), the Norwegian Society for NDT (NSNDT), and the Romanian Association of Non-Destructive Testing (ARoENd).

3. The agenda was confirmed as tabled.
4. The Chairman, Mr. John Thompson, explained the changes to the Terms of reference and scope of interests of the working group.
  - a. On the subject of qualification of non-destructive testing, one of the areas of interest of the Forum, Mr. Trampus explained that Hungary has an independent qualification body, which is separate from the national NDT society, and of which he is a member in a personal capacity. Mr. Hennaut pointed out that in Belgium, qualification of NDT is conducted in accordance with the ASME requirements. In the Netherlands, Mr. Zeelenberg said, only 'alternative' inspection processes are qualified. This topic was of significant interest, and will be the subject of discussions at future meetings.
5. EFNDT Strategic Plan. The meeting reviewed and discussed issues arising from the plan.
  - a. On the subject of NDT vendor accreditation, Mr. Hennaut pointed out that both ISO/IEC 17025 and 1720 are applicable.
  - b. Dr. Farley was particularly keen to emphasise that those assigned actions in the strategic plan comment upon, or initiate progress in, their assignment, and he said that he would be writing to all involved to remind them of the need to maintain momentum (**Action: JMF**). Dr. Farley said that the strategic plan would be modified according to comments received or work progress made.

6. NDT personnel Qualification and Certification

- a. Status of standards covering Q&C of NDT personnel:

AIA-NAS 410	NAS 410 Rev 3 / EN 4179, Ed 4 – 01 October 2003 (Strawman (P4) ) International Standard for Nondestructive Testing Personnel – Aerospace
ANSI-CP-189 (draft)	2006, ANSI/ASNT standard for qualification and certification of non-destructive testing personnel
AIA-NAS-410	Aerospace Industries Association national Aerospace Standard for qualification and certification of non-destructive testing personnel
SNT-TC-1A	ASNT recommended practice for the qualification and certification of non-destructive testing personnel. Periodically reviewed and republished by the American Society for NDT
EN 45013	1989 General criteria for certification bodies operating certification of personnel (withdrawn, superseded by ISO/IEC 17024 : 2003)
EN 473	2000 Qualification and certification of NDT personnel - General Principles (pdf version)
prEN 473	CEN TC138 N808 dated 10 July 2006 (issued for CEN 5 month enquiry in September 2006)
EN 10256	2000 Non-destructive testing of steel tubes - qualification and competence of level 1 and 2 non-destructive testing personnel
EN 4179	2005 Aerospace series - qualification and approval of personnel for non-destructive testing
ISO 20807 :	2000-12-15 Qualification of personnel for limited applications of non-destructive testing

ISO/IEC 17024	2003 Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
IAF G24	Guidance on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17024 : 2003 by accreditation bodies
ISO 9712	2005 Non-Destructive Testing - Qualification and Certification of Personnel
ISO 11484	1994 Steel tubes for pressure purposes - qualification and certification of non-destructive testing (NDT) personnel

- b. prEN 473 (CEN TC138 N808) – harmonisation or divergence with ISO 9712:2005?  
The Chairman explained that European members of TC135/SC7, the responsible ISO committee for ISO 9712, had made significant input to the drafting of the present 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of ISO 9712 (2005), and that this standard and EN 473 : 2000 were harmonious. He expressed concern that the present draft revision of EN 473 appeared to be diverging from the related ISO standard. Mr. Thompson invited Dr. Richard Murphy to address the meeting.
- c. Dr. R V Murphy, chairman of ISO TC135/SC7, had expressed his concerns in writing ([copy attached](#)), providing a copy to the chairman of CEN TC138, about the possible divergence of the European and international standards on 3<sup>rd</sup> party qualification and certification of NDT personnel. Dr. Murphy verbally expressed his concerns at this meeting, from which three major points are recorded:
  - i. Unless CEN TC138 moves to re-establish convergence of these two important standards, Europe will lose the ‘leadership’ status that it has established with past revisions of EN 473.
  - ii. The major differences in training and experience requirements elaborated in ISO 9712 : 2005 and prEN 473 (N808) will make it impossible for a certification body to comply with both standards simultaneously.
  - iii. It would appear that the present prEN 473 (N808) may establish barriers to world trade.
- d. Mr. Kaps highlighted the historic problems caused by recertification as defined in EN 473 : 2000 and ISO 9712 : 2005. prEN 473 (N808) had addressed these problems and provided a solution, which he felt that ISO 9712 should also embody. He went on to state that the chairman of CEN TC138 wished to retain control of the standard that was applicable in Europe for compliance with regulations, such as the pressure equipment directive (97/23/EC); if Europe adopted ISO 9712, it would lose the ability to control the standard and may find itself having to comply with requirements that, outside of Europe, could be the subject of derogation under ISO procedures. However, said Mr. Kaps, he *would* like to see the two standards become near identical.
- e. In summary, it was concluded that convergence of the standards was highly desirable – even if European countries believe that they must maintain control of the standard that they are obliged to implement under European Regulations. The Chairman reminded members of the Working Group that they should be offering comments and proposals for voting to their national standards organisations by the end of December 2006 for onward transmission to CEN TC 138, which would meet in April 2007 to consider comments and votes received.

## 7. EFNDT MRA

- a. The meeting was reminded of the existence and success of the EFNDT Multilateral Recognition Agreement, which was signed by over 30 Signatories (listed in Schedule 1), and that there were over 20 Registered bodies (listed in Schedule 2). The meeting was advised that there is now a Code of Practice – which is binding on registered

bodies, and that the Administration of the MLA is provided by the EFNDT Certification Executive Committee (CEC). It was not clear whether all certification bodies had received the code of practice, and this was to be followed up by the Chairman and the CEC Secretary, M. Poudrai (**Action: JRT/MP**).

8. Quality and reliability of NDT

- a. Accreditation versus ISO 9001 : 2000 certification of NDT ISI vendors. A draft interpretation of [ISO 9001 : 2000 criteria for NDT](#) service vendors had been circulated prior to the meeting. No comments had been received, but expressions of strong support were offered by Kaps, Sofronič and Trampus. It was agreed to circulate the draft once more with a call for comment on (a) the need for the document, (b) the specific interpretations included, and (c) the need for additional interpretations, such as for NDT personnel certification bodies (**Action: all members**).

9. Performance Demonstration (Qualification of personnel and procedures for specific inspection tasks)

- a. The chairman introduced this item by describing what was meant by the terms, and reporting that there is a document detailing a European methodology for qualification of NDT (now a normative reference in prEN 473), and that work is underway in ISO/TC135/SC7/WG7 to produce an ISO Technical Report or Specification for qualification of NDT personnel through Performance Demonstration (PD).
- b. The chairman reported that there is a PD initiative in the UK concerning welds on steam boilers, and Mr. Zeelenberg reported that, in the Netherlands, there is a pipeline NDT qualification standard being used for Automated UT. Where are there other similar examples of performance demonstration being applied in practice? It was agreed that members would provide examples of 'Performance Demonstration' using an enquiry form to be designed by Messrs. Hennaut and Zeelenberg for the purpose (**Action: GH/EZ**).
- c. Dr. Trampus reported that there is to be a JRC Petten organised meeting of NDT Qualification Bodies on 26-28 November 2006. It was proposed that a request for an EFNDT representative to be invited to attend this meeting be addressed to Arne Eriksen of JRC Petten (**Action: JMF**).

10. Reporting to the BoD – The Chairman will provide report and attend if possible.

11. Any other Business

- a. There was an announcement that the next International Conference on Qualification and Certification will be held on 26 and 27 September 2007 in Berlin. Ideas and proposals for discussion and presentation topics were invited, and should be sent to the Chairman by email, who would gather proposals and forward them to DGZfP which would organise this conference (**Action: all members**).

12. Date and location of next meeting

- a. Provisionally - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in Berlin

13. Closure of the meeting (13h00)